

Amendments to the Claims:

1-32. (canceled)

33. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

(a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 32 SEQ ID NO:54;~~

(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 32 SEQ ID NO:54, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

(c) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 32 SEQ ID NO:54;~~

(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 32 SEQ ID NO:54, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

[[(e)]] (a) the nucleic acid sequence shown in ~~of SEQ ID NO:53 shown in Figure 31 SEQ ID NO:53;~~

[[(f)]] (b) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence ~~of SEQ ID NO:53 shown in Figure 31 SEQ ID NO:53;~~ or

[[(g)]] (c) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203287.

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the nucleic acid sequence ~~of SEQ ID NO:53 shown in Figure 31 SEQ ID NO:53.~~

39. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:53 shown in Figure 217 SEQ ID NO:53.

40. (previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203287.

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 33 [[28]].

45. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 44, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

46. (currently amended) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 44.

47. (currently amended) The isolated host cell of Claim 46, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

48. (new) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of an at least 20 nucleotides fragment of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:53, or a complement thereof, that specifically hybridizes under stringent conditions to:

- (a) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:53 or a complement thereof;
- (b) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203287 or a complement thereof;

wherein, said stringent conditions use 50% formamide, 5 x SSC, 50 mM sodium phosphate (pH 6.8), 0.1% sodium pyrophosphate, 5x Denhardt's solution, sonicated salmon

sperm DNA (50 μ g/ml), 0.1% SDS, and 10% dextran sulfate at 42 °C, with washes at 42 °C in 0.2 x SSC and 50% formamide at 55 °C, followed by a wash comprising of 0.1 x SSC containing EDTA at 55 °C, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is suitable for use as a PCR primer or probe.

49. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 50 nucleotides.

50. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 60 nucleotides.

51. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 70 nucleotides.

52. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 80 nucleotides.

53. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 90 nucleotides.

54. (new) The isolated nucleic acid molecule of Claim 48 that is at least 100 nucleotides.